Estimates to the members and represented that since copies had just reached the members, they should be allowed at least four days' time for sending up resolutions on the Budget. He next prayed for the ultimate success of the Allies in the present European war. He also prayed for the long life, health and prosperity of His Highness the Maharaja, the young Yuvaraja Sri Jayachamaraja Wadiyar and all other members of the Royal House, and concluded with the wish that in the days to come, the relations between His Highness' Government and his subjects would grow more cordial than in the past and that the reputation of Mysore would also be further enhanced.

Mr. S. C. MALLIAH also expressed loyal felicitations to His Highness and wished many returns of the happy occasion. He assured the Dewan that, in accordance with the wishes of His Highness the Maharaja, the members of the Assembly would support every action taken and would be taken by the Government in the matter of extending generous help in the shape of men, money and material for the speedy and successful conclusion of the war in which Great Britain and her Allies were so justly participating. He concluded with the wish that under the sympathetic and able guidance of Sir Mirza Ismail, Mysore would continue to make rapid strides and soon be a model not only to India as at present but to the world as a whole.

Mr. JATHARE NAIK echoed similar sentiments.

At this stage, Mr. C. K. VENKATARAMIAH (Kannada Translator to Government) read the Kannada version of the Dewan's Address.

Referring again to the Dewan's Address, Mr. D. VENKATARAMANAPPA referred to various measures of improvements inaugurated by the present Dewan and offered, on behalf particularly of the citizens of Bangalore, sincere thanks to the Dewan for the same. He also joined the previous speakers in offering loyal felicitations to His Highness the Maharaja on his approaching Birthday, and to Prince Jayachamaraja Wadiyar on his being conferred with the title of Yuvaraja of Mysore. He concluded with an appeal to the Dewan to continue to start new industries so that all the poor and unemployed people might soon find employment and if possible that there might be nobody in the State remaining unemployed.

Yajaman N. Y. VEERABHADRACHARYA expressed felicitations to the young Yuvaraja, Prince Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, and wished him the best of health and wisdom. He also expressed his loyal good wishes to His Highness the Maharaja and other members of his family and requested the Dewan-President to convey on behalf of the House the assurance of loyalty to His Highness.

Swearing in of New Members.

The following members then made the prescribed Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to His Highness the Maharaja and took their seats :—

1. Mr. N. P. Govinda Gowda, Narasimharajapur.
2. „ B. Narayana Reddy, Bagepalli Taluk.
3. „ C. Subbanna Naik, Koppa Taluk.
4. „ Henry M. White, Kolar Gold Fields.
5. „ Lakshmana Reddy, Goribidnur Taluk.
6. „ L. Puttananjappa, Nanjangud.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Ganja Cultivation.

Q.—2. Mr. B. S. SIDDAPPA (Kankanhalli Taluk).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) the number of applications received in Bangalore District praying for grant of licences for "ganja" cultivation ;

(*b*) the number of such licences granted till now ?

A.—The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (Mr. Charles E. Noronha).—

(*a*) Two.

(*b*) None.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA.—Why is it that no licences are granted for the cultivation of ganja in the Bangalore District?

The EXCISE COMMISSIONER (Mr. M. Venkatesa Iyengar).—Licences cannot be given to all who apply. The area is limited and for cultivation of ganja we require good land, sufficient water supply and experience. So, it has been confined to the Goribidnur Taluk. And even there the area is 25 to 30 acres every year, according to requirements.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA.—Is it because Government consider that ganja consumption is injurious to health that they have restricted the quantity to be grown?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—Government have not said that ganja consumption is either injurious or otherwise.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA.—What is the average quantity required every year?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—I cannot give the correct figure. The quantity that can be grown on about 25 acres would be sufficient to meet the requirements.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA.—On what basis are the requirements gauged?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—On the average sales.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA.—What is the harm in slightly increasing the output?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—The harm lies in the possibility of the excess being taken to places outside the State and sold.

Mr. B. S. SIDDAPPA.—Why not encourage the cultivation of ganja in Bangalore District, reducing, if necessary, the quantity grown in Goribidnur Taluk?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—There are practical difficulties. Watch and ward establishment would have to be duplicated.

Mr. B. L. BYANNA.—Supposing the demand for ganja increases, what will the Government do?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—The question will be considered if and when it arises.

Mr. JATHARE NAIK—Is it not possible to put an end to ganja cultivation altogether?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—That could be done only when all those who are in the habit of using ganja give up that habit.

Mr. JATHARE NAIK.—Government should wean them from the habit.

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—They have been doing what they can in that direction. The Temperance Association which is doing propaganda work in that behalf is given financial assistance by Government. In the Closepet Health Centre, all ganja shops have been closed. Even in the other areas where ganja is sold, the supply is limited to the extent of the average sales for the previous five years.

Mr. JATHARE NAIK.—Is it not possible to reduce even that quantity gradually from year to year?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—We are doing it slowly.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—Have any complaints reached the Government that ganja from Mysore is being surreptitiously smuggled into the Salem District?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—Yes.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—What action have the Government taken to prevent such smuggling?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—On investigation, it has been found that the complaints are mostly baseless. There might have been one or two stray cases, but certainly they are not of frequent occurrence. Authorities in charge of prohibition on the other side have not shown that ganja is being smuggled into the district from this State.

Mr. Bhupalam R. CHANDRASEKHARAYYA.—Are the Government aware that Mysore ganja enjoys a reputation for quality?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—I have heard so

Mr. B. DONDE GOWDA.—In view of the fact that a number of families are ruined as a result of the earning

members thereof getting addicted to ganja, why not the supply to each shop be suitably reduced ?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—Too much restriction may result in people resorting to illicit cultivation.

Mr. B. DONDE GOWDA.—But is it not a fact that some people are consuming ganja because it is available to them ?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—It is not all that can get it that will use it. The supplies also are limited.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH.—It has been stated that cultivation of ganja is being reduced gradually. Is it because the Government consider that consumption of ganja is injurious to health ?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—Taken in limited quantities, like snuff or coffee, for example, it might not do harm. But there is no use in discussion on the point. Some people use it and we control its production and sale.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH.—If it were not injurious to health, why should shops in the Closepet Health Centre be closed down at all ?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—That is in connection with the experiment of weaning addicts from the drink and drug habit.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH.—What is the object of that experiment ?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—To see whether people would be benefited by it and if so to what extent.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH.—What is the result of the experiment so far ?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—It is too early to say. It is less than two years since the experiment was started.

Mr. M. SUBBIAH.—If as a result of this experiment it is found that ganja consumption is injurious to the health of the people, will Government further reduce the area under cultivation ?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—The question will be considered then.

Mr. S. VENKATASWAMI GOWDA.—Even in the meanwhile, cannot people who use ganja be booked ?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—There is no law at present to prevent the use of drinks and drugs.

Mr. Rayara KEMPANNA.—Is It an offence to carry on propaganda against the consumption of ganja ?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—No. The Temperance Federation have been doing it and Government have been giving them an annual grant for the work.

Mr. B. MALLAPPA.—Is picketing of ganja shops permitted ?

Mr. M. VENKATESA IYENGAR.—Not picketing which may lead to trouble. But there is no objection to anybody carrying on temperance propaganda at a safe distance from a shop.

Congestion in Middle Schools.

Q.—3. Mr. Shampur PAPANNA (Minorities).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether it has come to their notice that there is undue congestion in the middle and upper primary schools in Bangalore City and other big towns, the strength exceeding 50 or 60 in each class ;

(*b*) whether such congestion of students will not come in the way of proper attention being given to the pupils of such classes and make them unmanageable ?

A.—The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, GENERAL DEPARTMENT (Mr. J. Appaji Gowda).—

(*a*) and (*b*) There are no upper primary schools in Bangalore City and other big towns, where there are middle schools. The maximum strength allowed in middle schools is 40. But, when it is found not possible to provide immediately additional hands and accommodation for bifurcating classes in which admission is sought slightly beyond the prescribed minimum, the District Educational Officers are authorised to permit, at their discretion, the admission of a few pupils in excess of the prescribed minimum. When the classes become really unmanageable, efforts are made to bifurcate them and provide additional hands and accommodation.